United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1697
29 July 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council asks Secretary-General tc begin consultations with view to fundamental and far-reaching reflection on Cyprus problem; reiterates that status quo is unacceptable and calls on parties to cooperate fully in reaching settlement.

+ Security Council condemns recent bomb attacks in Buenos Aires and London, and demands immediate end to all such terrorist actions; stresses need for international cooperation in tackling terrorism.

+ Security Council condemns extremist elements blocking progress towards peaceful settlement in Burundi; demands that incitements to violence or ethnic hatred cease.

+ Security Council welcomes progress towards implementation of settlement plan for Western Sahara; urges parties to continue cooperation with Secretary-General and MINURSO.

+ General Assembly establishes Office of Internal Oversight Services, to be headed by Under-Secretary-General; authorizes $300 million for peace-keeping and related activities.

+ Secretary-General says he will soon set up three-member Commission of Experts to investigate humanitarian violations, including genocide, in Rwanda.

+ International Tribunal for former Yugoslavia completes legal and operational framework necessary to begin functioning as criminal court in September.

+ Secretary-General says Association of Displaced Persons is blockading UNPAs in Croatia and preventing UNPROFOR from carrying out its duties.

+ Ad Hoc Committee on Convention on Safety of United Nations Personnel to discuss negotiating text during meeting in New York from 1 to 12 August.

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For information media—not an official record

+ Preparatory Commission for International Seabed Authority and Law of Sea Tribunal to hold final session from 1 to 12 August.

+ Bosnian President asks Security Council to convene urgent meeting on Bosnian Serb closure of blue route across Sarajevo airport; says strangulation of city threatens peace process.

+ Department of Humanitarian Affairs arranges emergency airlift of relief supplies to Yemen.

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The Security Council today asked the Secretary-General to begin consultations with it, the Guarantor Powers, and the two leaders in Cyprus with a view to a fundamental and far-reaching reflection on ways to approach the Cyprus problem in a manner that would yield results. It reiterated its call to the parties to demonstrate their commitment to a settlement by cooperating fully to that end. The Council took that action by adopting resolution 939 (1994), in response to the options and ideas set out in the Secretary-General's report of 30 May.

The Council reiterated that the maintenance of the status quo in Cyprus was unacceptable. It also reaffirmed that a settlement must be based on a State of Cyprus with a single scvereignty, international personality and citizenship, with its independence and territorial integrity safeguarded, and comprising two politically equal communities in a bi-communal and bi-zonal federation. Such a settlement must exclude union in whole or in part with any other country or any form of partition or secession.

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The Security Council today strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Buenos Aires on 18 July, which caused great loss of human life, and the attacks in London on 26 and 27 July. In a statement read out to correspondents by its President, Jamsheed Marker (Pakistan), the Council expressed its sympathy to the victims and their families, and to the Governments and people of Argentina and the United Kingdom. It demanded an immediate end to all such terrorist attacks.

The Council recalled the statement issued at its Summit on 31 January 1992, expressing deep concern over acts of international terrorism and emphasizing the need for the international community to deal effectively with them. It stressed the need to strengthen international cooperation in order to prevent, combat and eliminate all forms of terrorism, which affected the international community as a whole.

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The Security Council today condemned extremist elements in Burundi who sought to block progress towards a peaceful settlement and demanded an immediate end to any incitements to violence or ethnic hatred. In a statement

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by its President, Jamsheed Marker (Pakistan), the Council expressed alarm at the recent violence in Bujumbura, and again condemned the interruption of the democratic process in Burundi.

The Council expressed support for the ongoing political dialogue aimed at an early agreement on presidential succession. It called on all people in Burundi, especially political, military and religious leaders, to support the negotiations leading to a settlement based on democratic principles. The Council welcomed the ongoing cooperation between the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations to assist in maintaining peace in Burundi. It encouraged the Secretary-General to continue using his good offices through his Special Representative.

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The Security Council today welcomed the progress made on the issues outlined in the Secretary-General's report of 12 July towards the implementation of the settlement plan for Western Sahara. It urged the parties to continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General and the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) to ensure the implementation of the settlement plan as soon as possible.

In a Presidential Statement by Jamsheed Marker (Pakistan), the Council noted the Secretary-General's proposals for a revised timetable to organize the referendum for self-determination, scheduled for 14 February 1995. It looked forward to his next report in August, on the basis of which it hoped to decide on the organization and timing of the referendum. In the meantime, the Council welcomed the intention of the Identification Commission to set 31 August 1994 as the deadline for receipt of voter application forms.

The Secretary-General's report reviewed preparatory work for the identification and registration of potential voters, the confinement of troops to designated locations and the release of political prisoners and detainees. Other issues covered were the suspension of laws which might impede a free and fair referendum, organization of the referendum and the return of refugees.

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The General Assembly today established an Office of Internal Oversight Services, and authorized it to initiate and conduct any action required for monitoring, internal audit, inspections and investigations in the United Nations. The new Office will be headed by an Under-Secretary-General. It will take over the functions of the Office for Inspections and Investigations created last year by the Secretary-General and have operational independence under his authority.

The Assembly also adopted two decisions attached to the text on the Oversight Office. By the first, it will consider measures to improve United Nations external oversight mechanisms at its next session. By the second, it

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asked the Secretary-General to report to that session on provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations for settling disputes to which the Organization was a party.

In addition, the Assembly authorized more than $300 million for peace-keeping and related activities. That figure included: $140 million gross monthly for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) from 1 October to 30 November 1994, should the Security Council continue the Force beyond 30 September; $25 million for liquidating the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) from 16 November 1994 to 31 January 1995; and $10 million for the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) for 22 April to 22 October.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will soon set up a three-member Commission of Experts to investigate grave humanitarian violations, including possible acts of genocide, in Rwanda. In a report to the Security Council dated 26 July, he noted that the Commission on Human Rights had appointed a Special Rapporteur, René Degni-Ségui, to investigate such abuses. To avoid overlapping and to maximize resources, the Rapporteur would also report to the Commission of Experts. It would be located in Geneva where it could use the resources of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Secretary-General said the Commission would review and update available information and carry out its own investigations during the first stage of its work. In the second stage, it would draw conclusions based on evidence of specific violations in order to identify the persons responsible. It would then decide whether they should be tried under national or international juristiction. He said he would also establish a trust fund to assist the Commission.

In a related development, the Special Rapporteur will undertake a second mission to Rwanda from 28 to 31 July, to discuss human rights concerns with the Government, especially regarding refugees and internally displaced persons. The Special Rapporteur will also visit Goma to examine the situation of Rwandese refugees there.

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The last plenary session of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia concluded in The Hague, the Netherlands, today after completing the legal and operational framework necessary for the Tribunal to begin functioning as a criminal court this Autumn. The Judges will be able to proceed with indictments as of 1 September.

The Judges also agreed on the installation and equipment of the courtroom, which is scheduled for completion 21 October. They also welcomed Justice Richard Goldstone, the Tribunal's prosecutor, who will assume his duties on 15 August.

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Demonstrations by the Association of Displaced Persons are preventing the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) from carrying out its duties in Croatia, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a letter to the Security Council President dated 27 July, he said the blockade of United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) could not be allowed to continue. He warned that UNPROFOR's capabilities would be seriously reduced without freedom of movement for supplies and logistics.

The Secretary-General said that while the Croatian Government might not fully control the demonstrators, it was responsible for ensuring that they did not prevent UNPROFOR from carrying out its mandate. He recommended that the Council call on the Government to fulfil its obligations to the Force and to end the blockade.

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The Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of an International Convention Dealing with the Safety and Security of United Nations and Associated Personnel will meet in New York from 1 to 12 August. The Committee is drafting an international convention to protect the personnel concerned, and will discuss a negotiating text approved last April. The text covers such issues as individual criminal responsibility for attacks on United Nations personnel and prosecution of alleged offenders. Discussion is expected to focus on the definition of such terms as "United Nations personnel" and "United Nations operation", and the scope of the convention's application.

In a report last September, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali called attention to gaps in the security system for United Nations operations. Conditions had become extremely hazardous, particularly in areas lacking adequate government authority One staff member was killed every two weeks in 1993, compared with one every month in 1992. The Security Council subsequently adopted resolution 868 (1993), condemning the increased number of attacks and use of force against United Nations personnel.

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The Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea will hold its last session at Headquarters from 1 to 12 August. It will consider budgetary and other arrangements for the Authority, as well as its report containing recommendations on practical arrangements for the establishment of the Tribunal.

The Preparatory Commission was established by the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea to ensure that the Authority and the Tribunal entered into effective operation without delay.

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Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic has asked the Security Council to convene an urgent meeting in response to the Bosnian Serb closure of the "blue route" across Sarajevo airport. In a letter to the Council dated 27 July, he said that the siege of the city had never really been lifted, and that it had now been intensified.

President Izetbegovic refuted a Bosnian Serb allegation that Government forces had used the route to transport weapons. The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) inspected all traffic on it and had described the allegation as unfounded. However, the Force had taken no action to protect the corridor, which it controlled. He went on to say that the strangulation of Sarajevo jeopardized the peace process and threatened an expansion and intensification of the conflict.

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The United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) has arranged an emergency flight to transport relief supplies to Yemen. The plane will leave Italy tomorrow carrying 18 tons of blankets, electric generators and other goods donated by the Italian Government, and six tons of medical supplies provided through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The flight is part of the ongoing United Nations relief effort for Yemen. The Organization is particularly concerned about an estimated 370,000 persons in the southern/eastern governorates who appear to have been most affected by the recent armed conflict.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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DH/1698
1 August 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in resolution adopted yesterday, authorizes multinational force to use all necessary means to facilitate departure of military leadership from Haiti and return of President Aristide.

+ High Commissioner for Human Rights, in report to Secretary-General, says mass killings in Rwanda were carried out in planned and concerted manner.

+ Secretary-General says regional organizations can play important role in dispute settlement and maintenance of peace; United Nations must not hesitate to explore cooperation in political, operational and financial spheres.

+ Secretary-General appoints jurists from Togo, Guinea and Mali as members of Expert Commission on humanitarian violations in Rwanda.

+ Secretary-General suspends preparations by Tajikistan Special Envoy for upcoming talks in Islamabad until Government and opposition demonstrate commitment to political dialogue.

+ Somali militia force attacks UNOSOM II camp in Belet Weyne, killing one Zimbabwean peace-keeper.

+ Legal Counsel says number of fatalities of United Nations and associated personnel has risen steadily, but those responsible have not been brought to justice.

+ Committee on Human Rights completes fifty-first session in Geneva; expresses concern at number of States failing to report on implementation f Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

+ Secretary-General asks several Member States for information regarding oil imports before imposition of economic sanctions against Iraq.

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For information media--not an official record

The Security Council yesterday authorized a multinational force under unified command and control to use "all necessary means" to facilitate the departure from Haiti of the military leadership and the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The Council called for the restoration of the legitimate Government in Haiti, consistent with the Governors Island Agreement. Once a secure and stable environment had been established, the multinational force would be replaced by an expanded United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) The Council took that action, under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, by adopting resolution 940 (1994). There were 12 votes in favour and two abstentions (Brazil and China).

The Council extended UNMIH's mandate for six months, increased its troop level to 6,000 and set February 1996 as the completion date for the Mission. Under its revised mandate, UNMIH would assist the democratic Government of Haiti to sustain the secure and stable environment established during the multinational phase. It would protect international personnel and key installations and help professionalize the Haitian armed forces and create a separate police force. UNMIH would also help organize free elections.

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The High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso, has said the killings of hundreds of thousands of civilians in Rwanda since April were carried out in a planned and concerted manner. In a report to the Secretary-General dated 25 July, Mr. Ayala Lasso said radio stations close to the former Government had reportedly broadcast programmes inciting violence and extrajudicial killings. There had also been reports of summary or arbitary executions carried out by Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) forces, in acts of revenge.

Mr. Ayala Lasso said the Special Rapporteur appointed by the Commission for Human Rights would carry out his investigations in two phases. The first would focus on current events, emphasizing emergency situations. In the second phase, the information gathered would provide a basis for an in-depth investigation of cases, to establish individual responsibility. Contacts had already been made with potential sources and many were willing to cooperate fully with the Special Prosecutor's field staff. He emphasized that there was a danger of reprisals against victims or witnesses who might come forward, in Rwanda and in neighbouring countries.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today said regional organizations could play an important role in the peaceful settlement of disputes and the maintenance of peace, especially through preventive diplomacy. Addressing a meeting at Headquarters on cooperation with regional organizations, he stressed that the United Nations could not deal with every situation threatening peace and security on its own. It must not hesitate to explore

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new forms of cooperation in the political, operational and financial spheres However, any actions taken by regional organizations must be authorized and controlled by the Security Council

The regional organizations represented at the meeting were: the Commonwealth of Independent States; the Commonwealth Secretariat; the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE); the European Union; the League of Arab States; the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); the Organization of African Unity (OAU); the Organization of American States (OAS); and the Western European Union. Also participating were: Under-Secretaries-General Kofi Annan and Marrack Goulding; Special Adviser Ismat Kittani; General Assembly President S.R. Insanally (Guyana), and Security Council President Yuliy Vorontsov (Russian Federation).

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed the three members of the Commission of Experts to investigate grave humanitarian violations, including possible acts of genocide, in Rwanda. The members are: Atsu-Koffi Amega (Togo), Member of the African Commission on Human Rights and Peoples Rights, former President of the Supreme Court and former Foreign Minister; Habi Dieng (Guinea), Attorney-General; and Salifou Fomba (Mali), Professor of International Law and Member of the United Nations International Law Commission. Mr. Amega will be Chairman of the Commission.

In a letter dated 29 July to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General noted that he reserved the right to expand the Commission's membership as necessary.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has suspended the activities of his Special Envoy for Tajikistan regarding upcoming talks in Islamabad until the Government and opposition parties demonstrate their sincerity and commitment to political dialogue. In a report to the Security Council dated 28 July, he said the talks must be pursued in the context of the agenda agreed to in Moscow earlier this year and the course of action outlined in Tehran in May. He noted that the parties had been unable to agree on when a cease-fire agreement should come into force. The Government lacked the political will to implement necessary confidence-building measures, while the opposition had continued its armed struggle through border infiltrations and acts of terrorism.

Citing the danger of further fighting and the potential international repercussions, the Secretary-General said he would continue his efforts within the framework of preventive diplomacy His Special Envoy would maintain the necessary contact with the Tajik parties, and with the Governments whose cooperation had been instrumental in securing the progress to date. The small group of United Nations officials in Tajikstan would continue to implement its

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mandate, taking concerted action with the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and other organizations in the country.

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A camp housing 168 Zimbabwean soldiers serving with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) was attacked by some 1,000 militia members on Saturday, according to a spokesman for the Organization. One peace-keeper was killed in the incident at Belet Weyne, and equipment, weapons and personal property were looted.

The spokesman expressed concern that rumors of a withdrawal by UNOSOM II from Somalia could lead to further attacks. "The mood seems to be grab as much as you can from the United Nations before they pull out," he said. Meanwhile, there was sporadic fighting in southern Mogadishu over the weekend, but UNOSOM II peace-keepers were not involved.

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The number of fatalities of United Nations and associated personnel has been consistently rising, yet those responsible have not been held accountable for their actions, according to the Organization's Legal Counsel, Hans Corell. He made that comment to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of an International Convention Dealing With the Safety and Security of United Nations and Associated Personnel, which began its two-week session at Headquarters today.

Mr. Corell said the Committee had been entrusted with laying down the rules to enhance the safety of all persons who put their lives at risk in the interest of the international community. The successful completion of that task would significantly strengthen the United Nations role in the maintenance of international peace and security.

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The Committee on Human Rights completed its fifty-first session in Geneva on Friday, having reviewed implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Jordan, Togo, Italy, Azerbaijan, Cyprus and Slovenia. It also examined a special report from Burundi. Despite some positive developments, the Committee noted reports of summary executions, disappearances and torture in Azerbaijan and Togo, and ill-treatment of detainees by the security forces in Italy.

The Committee expressed serious concern at the number of States in default of their obligations to report on implementation of the Covenant. It identified 17 States parties whose reports were extremely overdue: Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Somalia, Syria, Gambia, Lebanon, Suriname, Kenya, Mali, Jamaica, Guyana, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Central African

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Republic, Mauritius, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Panama and Madagascar.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has asked a number of Member States to seek information from petroleum companies under their jurisdiction regarding the whereabouts and amounts of any Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products imported by them on or after 1 June 1990. Such information would include the description, quantity and value of the imports, with details on the disposition of the proceeds of their sale.

In a letter to the Security Council President, the Secretary-General said the request was the most effective way to obtain information on Iraqi exports before the imposition of economic sanctions on 6 August 1990. The proceeds of sales after that date were to have been transferred to an escrow account provided for by the Council. Less than $160 million had been deposited to date, whereas some $1 billion in Iraqi assets were subject to resolution 778 (1992). In addition, hundreds of millions of dollars worth of oil may have been exported, but not yet paid for, before the sanctions took effect.

The Secretary-General's request was made to the following countries: Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Portugal, Russian Federation, Singapore, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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2 August 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

• United Nations convenes Rwanda pledging conference in Geneva; Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs appeals for immediate marshalling of resources, saying it is not too late for prevention.

• Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serbs meet under UNPROFOR auspices in Sarajevo to discuss reopening of Butmir road, prisoner-of-war exchanges and anti-sniping agreement.

• Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination begins forty-fifth session in Geneva; Subcommission on Protection of Minorities meets amid preparations for International Decade of Indigenous People.

* * *

The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Peter Hansen, today opened the United Nations pledging conference for Rwanda in Geneva with an appeal for an immediate marshalling of resources by the international community. He noted that there were one million refugees to be cared for in Goma and up to two million displaced persons in the humanitarian protection zone in southern Rwanda. However, there were some causes for optimism -- the Government was cooperating with the United Nations and Kigali was returning to life -- and it was not too late to speak of prevention.

Mr. Hansen said international efforts should focus on three tasks: meeting immediate life-saving needs in the hardist-hit areas, principally Goma; facilitating and then establishing conditions for the safe return of refugees; and ensuring a smooth transition in the humanitarian protection zone as the French-led force there withdrew. He stressed that the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) must be provided with the means to fulfil its mandate, noting that Operation Turquoise was due to be completed by 22 August.

Responding to Mr. Hansen's appeal, the European Union pledged 172 million ecus, in addition to a previously announced pledge of 150 million ecus. The United States said President Bill Clinton had requested $320 million from Congress for Rwanda, in addition to $250 million already pledged. Ireland

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announced new donations of 500,000 pounds to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and 125,000 pounds to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

* * *

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) today convened a meeting of Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serb representatives at Sarajevo airport, according to a spokesman for the Organization. The parties were expected to discuss the possible reopening of the Butmir road, which carried some 90 per cent of the city's supplies before being closed by the Bosnian Serbs. They were also expected to address implementation of an agreement on prisoner-of-war transfers, and a draft anti-sniping instrument. Sarajevo has witnessed a dramatic increase in sniping incidents in recent days.

In a related development, Sarajevo airport was opened to UNPROFOR traffic, while donor countries were discussing a possible resumption of the humanitarian airlift into the city on Thursday.

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The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination yesterday began its forty-fifth session in Geneva. In the next three weeks, the Committee will examine measures taken by Canada, Senegal, Egypt, Iceland, Luxembourg, Spain and Australia to combat racial discrimination, and discuss the situations in the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Burundi. Opening the session, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ibrahima Fall said the April elections in South Africa were the most significant development in the last year. By strongly condemning apartheid, the Committee had reinforced the moral dimension of the struggle there. He welcomed Albania's accession to the 1969 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which brought the total number of States parties to 139.

Meanwhile, the Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities began its forty-sixth session, during which it will discuss indigenous rights and United Nations action in the face of humanitarian catastrophes and growing ethnic strife. The session coincides with preparations for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, which begins on 10 December. The Subcommission will consider a draft universal declaration on the rights of indigenous people, prepared by a working group.

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DH/1700
3 August 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United Nations pledging conference generates $137 million in fresh contributions for Rwanda; substantial amounts of food aid arriving at Kigali airport.

+ Bosnian Serbs ask UNPROFOR to release weapons from Sarajevo exclusion zone as heavy fighting breaks out north of city; Special Representative Akashi delegates authority to use air strikes in case of attempt to remove weapons by force.

+ Giorgio Giacomelli, Director-General of United Nations Vienna Office, appointed as Secretary-General of Ninth United Nations Crime Congress.

+ United Nations Drug Control Programme sets up 35-member inter-governmental working group to help combat drug traffic by sea.

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The United Nations pledging conference in Geneva yesterday received $137 million in fresh contributions for Rwanda, according to a spokesman for the Organization. He said that some $440 million had so far been received in response to last month's inter-agency appeal, but noted that some of that money had been channeled through non-governmental organizations and bilateral agreements.

Meanwhile, a substantial amount of food and other relief supplies has been arriving at Kigali airport and will be distributed throughout Rwanda, the spokesman continued. The United States has provided 50 trucks to aid that process.

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Heavy fighting has broken out north of Sarajevo, and United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) Commander Lieutenant-General Michael Rose has visited the area to assess the situation, a spokesman for the Organization announced today. The Bosnian Serbs asked for the release of heavy weapons

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from three sites in the Sarajevo exclusion zone, claiming they were under heavy pressure from Bosnian Government forces. UNPROFOR declined that request, and reinforced its presence at the three sites.

The spokesman said Special Representative Yasushi Akashi had delegated authority to use air strikes should the Bosnian Serbs try to remove the weapons by force, while Lieutenant-General Rose had vowed to resist any such effort.

Meanwhile, some progress was reported yesterday in Sarajevo on the possible reopening of the Butmir road and on prisoner-of-war transfers. The Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serb representative said they would continue talks on those issues, and give a draft anti-sniping agreement further consideration.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Giorgio Giacomelli as Secretary-General of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which will be held in Tunis in April 1995. Mr. Giacomelli is Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna and Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. Eduardo Vetere, Chief of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, was named as Executive Secretary for the Congress. He was Executive Secretary of the Eighth United Nations Crime Congress, which was held in Havana in 1990.

The United Nations has convened a Crime Congress every five years since 1955 to provide a forum for the exchange of experience and the mobilization of public opinion regarding global issues in crime prevention and control. The 1995 Congress will focus on such issues as maintaining the rule of law; combating organized transnational crime and money laundering; and preventing juvenile violence.

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The United Nations Drug Control Programme has established a 35-member inter-governmental working group with a view to improving the interdiction of drug traffic by sea. It took that action in line with a decision taken last month by the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The group's first meeting has been scheduled for 19 to 23 September in Vienna.

The working group will prepare specific recommendations, tailored to the needs of specially vulnerable regions, on promoting cooperation in information sharing and law enforcement in the maritime sector. In particular, it will seek to enhance implementation of article 17 of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. That article provides for cooperation among States parties in identifying, boarding and searching suspicious ships, as well as in conducting arrests and seizures.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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4 August 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in letter to Security Council, says UNAMIR is no closer to attaining authorized strength than in May; faults Governments for reluctance to commit resources; appeals urgently for reinforcements.

+ UNPROFOR rebuffs Bosnian Serb attempts to remove weapons from sites in Sarajevo exclusion zone; heavy fighting reported elsewhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Member States owe United Nations $3.37 billion as of 31 July; $835 million owed to regular budget and $2.54 billion to peace-keeping.

+ Mission dispatched by Secretary-General to review UNOSOM II troop strength completes work.

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The United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) is still as far from attaining its authorized strength of 5,500 troops as it was when the Security Council adopted resolution 918 (1994) more than two months ago, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a letter to the Council dated 1 August, he said the need for reinforcements for UNAMIR remained urgent. He faulted Governments for their reluctance to supply the necessary resources, noting that the Council had twice urged them to respond urgently to appeals on behalf of UNAMIR.

Although several Governments had responded positively to those appeals, their offers had been conditional and had entailed complicated efforts to match troops and equipment, the Secretary-General continued. While the appalling events in Rwanda were a strong disincentive to involvement, hesitations and delays had contributed to the catastrophe. UNAMIR now had to establish safe conditions for the return of refugees, and would also be responsible for ensuring stability within Rwanda, especially along the northwestern border with Zaire where disturbances could not be ruled out.

The Secretary-General appealed in the strongest terms for reinforcements for UNAMIR. Governments with fully equpped units at their disposal might make

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them available temporarily until contingents that had been offered were properly equipped and deployed. He expressed the hope that the Mission could cope with the changed situation in Rwanda with its authorized strength, but said additional resources might be needed. However, the troop level would be reduced as and when circumstances permitted

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Bosnian Serb forces today made two attempts to remove heavy weapons from sites in the Sarajevo exclusion zone, but were successfully resisted by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) without the use of force, according to a spokesman for the Organization. The attempts were made amid heavy fighting in various locations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bosnian Serb and Bosnian Government exchanged 1,000 artillery rounds in northern Bosnia, the spokesman said. The Bosnian Serbs claimed that they were responding to a Government offensive, but were responsible for most of the shelling. In addition, 12 rounds hit Tuzla, causing five civilian casualties. Meanwhile, the Bosnian Government's Fifth Corps took the town of Pecigrad, which lies behind the internal confrontation line, and accepted the surrender of up to 500 Bosnian Muslim soldiers loyal to the breakaway leader Fikret Abdic.

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As of 31 July, Member States owed the United Nations a total of $3.37 billion, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount, $835 million was for assessments for the regular budget and $2.54 billion was for peace-keeping operations.

The United States -- the largest debtor -- owed $531 million to the regular budget and $956 million to the peace-keeping budget, while the Russian Federation owed some $601 million in peace-keeping contributions.

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The mission dispatched by the Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to review the troop strength of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) has completed its work and will leave the country today, according to a spokesman for the Organization. The mission met with the Force Commander and the Special Representative for Somalia, and held consultations with humanitarian agencies and non-governmental organizations regarding their security needs.

The mission, which was led by Major-General Timothy Dibuama, was expected to submit recommendations on UNOSOM II's troop strength to the Secretary-General on arrival in New York.

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United Nations

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DH/1702
5 August 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ UNPROFOR authorizes NATO air attacks on Bosnian Serb positions after forcible removal of weapons from collection point in Sarajevo exclusion zone; Force Commander warns that any further attempt to seize weapons will result in swift and appropriate action.

+ Security Council sends mission to Mozambique to discuss implementation of the General Peace Agreement; seeks full demobilization of forces so that elections can proceed as scheduled.

+ FAO report warns of massive famine in Horn of Africa; Angola, Burundi, Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda also face severe food shortages.

+ Preparatory Commission for International Seabed Authority discusses draft budget of $3.2 million for administrative costs in start-up phase.

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The Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), General Bertrand de Lapresle, today authorized the use of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) air power after Bosnian Serb forces removed heavy weapons from a collection point in the Sarajevo exclusion zone. Attacks were authorized on a small number of fixed and isolated Bosnian Serb positions within the zone. UNPROFOR said it had sought to avoid collateral damage, and had limited the NATO response to a measured and proportionate action.

Early this morning, Bosnian Serb soldiers forcibly removed one tank, two armoured personnel carriers and a mobile anti-aircraft system from the Ilizda weapons collection point. Attempts by UNPROFOR to block the exit were unsuccessful, and a helicopter attempting to locate the vehicles was hit by small-arms fire and forced to return to base. UNPROFOR had previously denied Bosnian Serb demands for the release of weapons, warning that it would respond to any unilateral attempt to seize them with all available means. In view of those unambiguous statements by UNPROFOR, the removal of the weapons by the Bosnian Serbs was considered a deliberate act undertaken in full awareness of the consequences.

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For information media--not an official record

General de Lapresle warned the Bosnian Serbs that any further attempt to remove heavy weapons from collection points in the Sarajevo exclusion zone would result in swift and appropriate action.

* * *

The Security Council will dispatch a mission to Mozambique tomorrow to discuss with the parties there how to ensure full and timely implementation of the General Peace Agreement. In a note by its President, Yuliy Vorontsov (Russian Federation), dated 4 August, the Council said the five-day mission would be composed of the following members: Brazil, China, Czech Republic, Djibouti, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, the Russian Federation and the United States. The Council had said it would consider such a mission in a Presidential statement on 19 July.

The mission will convey the Council's concern at delays in implementing major aspects of the Peace Agreement to the Government of Mozambique and the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO). It will underline the need to complete the demobilization of all forces by 15 August, as agreed by the parties, and the need to ensure that elections take place as scheduled, according to conditions set out in the Agreement. The mission will also stress the Council's intention to endorse the results provided the elections are free and fair, and remind the parties of their obligation to fully respect them.

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The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) today warned that a food crisis in the Horn of Africa could lead to a massive famine if international aid were not delivered urgently. The FAO's Special Report on the food situation in sub-Saharan Africa identified the countries of the region at risk as Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Sudan and Somalia.

FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf said the international community must not overlook the situation in the Horn of Africa while grappling with the Rwandan tragedy. He appealed for additional pledges and rapid delivery of food aid to avert a wide-spread famine. Solving Africa's food crisis in the long term would require focusing on staple crops and increasing productivity, he added.

The report called attention to problems elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa. It said the situation in Burundi was critical, and was further threatened by ethnic tensions. Tanzania, Uganda, Angola and Malawi also faced severe food shortages.

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The Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea has begun considering the draft budget for the Authority, which will come into existence after the Convention enters into force on 16 November. Addressing the Commission

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yesterday, Kenya said failure to provide adequate financing would mean that the years of work on the Convention had been wasted.

The draft budget provides for administrative costs of $3.2 million in the Authority's start-up phase -- from 16 November 1994 to 31 December 1995 -- with $1.6 million for conference servicing and another $1.6 million for the secretariat. Based on the Agreement on the deep deabed mining provisions of the Convention adopted recently by the General Assembly, those costs will be met through the United Nations budget.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1703
8 August 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ UNPROFOR reports reduced tension in Sarajevo after Bosnian Serbs return weapons seized from Ilizda collection point on Friday; UNHCR set to resume airlift into city tomorrow.

+ UNHCR says number of Rwandan refugees returning home from Zaire has declined from 15,000 to 10,000 a day; cholera epidemic wanes in Goma.

+ France says Operation Turquoise has established secure conditions in Rwanda safe zone; but is not large enough to meet all humanitarian needs.

+ Committee on Racial Discrimination expresses alarm at suffering and deprivation in Rwanda area; says international efforts to prevent genocide were unforgivably late.

+ Security Council mission to Mozambique has talks with Foreign Minister; will meet tomorrow with President Chissano, President of RENAMO, and Chairman of National Election Commission.

+ Special Representative for Somalia expresses concern at recent attack on UNOSOM II and faction fighting in Belet Weyn; reminds Somalis that Security Council is reviewing United Nations role in their country.

+ WHO Director-General, addressing International AIDS Conference in Yokohama, urges Asian leaders to make AIDS prevention a national priority.

+ United Nations Technical Team in Mexico outlines criteria for quick count in 21 August presidential election.

+ ESCAP Executive Secretary Rafeeuddin Ahmed appointed as Associate Administrator of UNDP.

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There was a reduction in tension in the Sarajevo area over the weekend after Bosnian Serb forces returned the heavy weapons which they had forcibly removed from the Ilizda collection point on Friday, according to a United

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For information media--not an official record

Nations spokesman. Responding to a request by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) launched limited air attacks on Bosnian Serb positions after the weapons were seized. UNPROFOR said it had sought to avoid collateral damage, and had limited the NATO response to a measured and proportionate action.

No sniping incidents were reported in Sarajevo yesterday and tram services resumed, the spokesman said. UNPROFOR positioned several armoured personnel carriers around the Holiday Inn in Sarajevo to protect the trams, and peace-keepers carried out anti-sniper patrols. Meanwhile, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was scheduled to resume its airlift into the city tomorrow.

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The number of Rwandan refugees returning home from Zaire has declined in the last week from 15,000 to 10,000 a day, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). A total of 100,000 people have gone back to Rwanda in recent weeks. United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations have been distributing supplies and have set up medical stations along the Goma-Gisenyi-Ruhengeri-Kigali route in order to assist returnees.

Meanwhile, the worst of the cholera epidemic appears to have passed at the Goma refugee camp in Zaire, although dysentry is on the increase, the UNHCR said. An estimated 23,000 people have died in the camp to date.

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France has said that Operation Turquoise is not large enough to cope with the massive flow of refugees into the safe humanitarian zone in southwestern Rwanda. In a letter to the Security Council dated 4 August, it said the French-led force could only provide basic aid for the most urgent cases until long-awaited international assistance became available. However, the force had successfully ensured the security of the area assigned to it and had helped more than two million people.

Despite the relative calm, French soldiers had directly observed flagrant human rights violations in the zone, according to the letter. Information regarding such abuses would be forwarded to the Commission of Experts authorized by the Security Council to investigate human rights violations in Rwanda.

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The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has expressed concern and alarm at the suffering and deprivation in the area of Rwanda. In a consensus decision adopted last week, the Committee also expressed profound regret that international efforts to prevent the tragedy and genocide there had been "so unforgivably late".

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Introducing the decision, Vice-Chairman Michael Sherifis said it indicated the Committee's desire to ensure that gross and massive manifestations of racial discrimination and ethnic conflict did not recur. He noted that Rwanda had been a State party to the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination since May 1975.

The Committee held an exchange of views on the basis of reports on Rwanda submitted by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, R. Degni-Segui, and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, José Ayala Lasso. Some members called for more early warning information in such situations and requested an information meeting with the Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

* * *

The Security Council mission to Mozambique met today with the country's Foreign Minister, Pascoal Mocumbi, and was due to have meetings tomorrow with President Joaquim Chissano, Mozambique National Resistence Movement (RENAMO) President Afonso Dhlakama, and the Chairman of the National Election Commission, B. Mazula.

Mission Chairman Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria) said the purpose of the meetings was to underline that all outstanding issues of the General Peace Agreement must be fully implemented and on time. All forces must be demobilized by 15 August, and the October elections must proceed as scheduled.

* * *

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Victor Gbeho, has expressed grave concern at recent faction fighting in Belet Weyn. In a statement issued on Saturday, he called on the parties concerned to cooperate fully with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II), to resolve their differences peacefully, and to refrain from any action that might aggravate the situation.

Mr. Gbeho said such actions as the killing of a Zimbabwean soldier and the looting of a UNOSOM II camp in Belet Weyn on 30 July did not favour Somalia's interests at a time when the Security Council was reviewing the United Nations role in the country. All Somali leaders must cooperate with the Operation to ensure the successful implementation of its mandate.

* * *

Fear, indifference and denial have been the main enemies to effective HIV/AIDS prevention according to Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO). Addressing the opening of the Tenth International Conference on AIDS in Yokohama, Japan, yesterday, Dr. Nakajima said there was sufficient knowledge about HIV/AIDS to contain its spread. He appealed to Asian leaders to face reality and make AIDS prevention a national priority. With delegates from 128 countries, the Conference is focusing on the rapidly increasing AIDS epidemic affecting Asia and women.

(more)

Dr. Nakajima stressed that the Conference could play a crucial role in mobilizing the political, financial and social support needed for a global AIDS strategy. Enormous population movements, the inferior status of women and a reluctance to acknowledge the huge threat posed by AIDS made many Asian countries very vulnerable. According to the WHO, the disease may be spreading fastest in parts of Asia, where 10 million people could be infected by the year 2,000.

* * *

The United Nations Technical Team in Mexico (ETONU-MEX) today outlined the criteria for conducting a quick count of the results of the presidential election on 21 August. The Team is in Mexico to give local non-governmental organizations technical support with the count, drawing on United Nations experience with electoral assistance missions in almost 50 countries. It will not evaluate or comment on the elections themselves or on the outcome.

The quick count is used to forecast election results. Its success depends on three factors that need to be clearly defined: the scientific design of the sample to be used, with an indication of the margin of error; the availability of observers; and the system of data collection and transmission from polling stations to the processing centre.

In order to qualify for assistance, non-governmental organizations must meet requirements such as impartiality, pluralism, professionalism and transparency. Observation activities should cover the entire electoral process and not be restricted to election day, and coverage should be sufficiently representative for findings to be relevant.

* * *

The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), James Gustave Speth, has appointed Rafeeuddin Ahmed as Associate Administrator of the UNDP. Mr. Ahmed has been Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) since April 1992. He previously served as Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs and as the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Humanitarian Affairs in South-East Asia.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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DH/1704
9 August 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Rwandan Justice Minister assures Secretary-General that persons charged with grave human rights violations in Rwanda will be given fair trial; says Government is seeking to encourage return of refugees.

+ Mozambican parties give Security Council mission reassurances regarding demobilization of forces and adherence to timetable for upcoming elections.

+ Croatian parties, meeting under auspices of International Conference on Former Yugoslavia, agree to continue talks pursuant to normalization of relations; set up working groups on topics for discussion.

+ Italy signs agreement with United Nations on use of emergency depot at Pisa; to give Department of Humanitarian Affairs 7 billion lira to aid countries in need.

+ WFP to supply $3.9 million worth of food aid to 300,000 people displaced by recent conflict in Yemen.

+ Working Group on Indigenous Populations, concluding twelfth session, recommends that General Assembly proclaim 9 August as International Day of Indigenous People.

+ UNEP issues Code of Ethics on International Trade in Chemicals to help improve safety in private sector.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today received assurances from Rwanda's Minister of Justice, Alphonse-Marie Mkubito, that those apprehended for grave human rights violations in his country would be given a fair trial. In a letter to the Secretary-General, Mr. Mkubito said his Government would make every effort to prevent summary executions and other acts of vigilante justice and to arrest those who committed acts of revenge. He hoped such assurances would encourage refugees to return to Rwanda.

(more)

For information media--not an official record

Mr. Mkubito said there was "credible evidence" that a number of people who had been arrested in Rwanda recently had committed genocide and other grave violations of international humanitarian law. His Government would hold those arrested in conditions consistent with international standards for detention pending prosecution by an international tribunal. He urged the Security Council to take concrete steps to lay the groundwork for the prompt establishment of such a tribunal. It should also ensure that the Commission of Experts set up to investigate grave humanitarian violations in Rwanda issued a report soon.

* * *

The nine-member Security Council mission to Mozambique today had meetings with President Joaquim Chissano, Mozambique National Resistence Movement (RENAMO) President Afonso Dhlakama, and the Chairman of the National Election Commission, B. Mazula. The mission is in the country to discuss how to ensure full and timely implementation of the General Peace Agreement.

President Chissano reassured the mission that demobilization would be completed more or less on time and expressed his Government's determination to maintain the timetable for the October elections. President Dhlakama said RENAMO's demobilization was essentially complete. He expressed confidence that the election dates would be adhered to, but said the registration deadline might be extended so that more people would be able to vote.

Mission Chairman Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria) later said that most of the elements for the elections were falling into place, but stressed that the international community must help the National Election Commission and the parties to ensure success.

* * *

The International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia today announced that the Croatian Government and the Croatian Serbs had agreed to continue negotiations within the framework of a general normalization of relations. That agreement was reached on Friday in a meeting held at the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) Headquarters in Knin, under the auspices of the International Conference.

The parties also decided to immediately establish working groups to prepare for negotiations on: humanitarian questions; the opening of the Zagreb-Belgrade highway; the provision of water supplies; pensions and savings rights; the restoration of hydro-electric power systems; the Adriatic oil pipeline; transportation issues; and questions relating to trade.

* * *

The United Nations and Italy today concluded a Memorandum of Understanding regarding contributions for the use of the emergency supply depot at Pisa during 1994. Italy will give the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) 7 billion lira to help countries or regions in emergency situations. The funds will cover the purchase of relief stocks to be stored

at Pisa, transportation, packing and management costs, as well as other initiatives to be determined jointly by Italy and the DHA.

Following today's signing in Rome, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Peter Hansen expressed gratitude for Italy's active role in assisting Rwanda. He noted that its commitments in Mozambique and Rwanda made Italy the largest single contributor to the DHA.

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The World Food Programme (WFP) has announced that it will supply urgently needed food to more than 300,000 people displaced by the recent conflict in Yemen. Almost 11,000 metric tons of food will be delivered over the next two months at a cost of more than $3.9 million. The agency will be working with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and international non-governmental organizations on a task force set up by the Yemeni Government to coordinate relief activities.

The WFP described the situation in southern Yemen as critical. Two months of intensive fighting around Aden had disrupted electricity and water supplies and halted economic activity, leaving most of the population without income. Some 50,000 people had taken refuge on the outskirts of the city, while thousands more had fled to rural areas, resulting in severe shortages of medicine and basic foods.

* * *

Concluding its twelfth session in Geneva last week, the Working Group on Indigenous Populations recommended that the General Assembly proclaim 9 August as the International Day of Indigenous People. It also requested that indigenous people make a presentation to the Assembly when the International Decade for the World's Indigenous People is launched in December.

The Working Group was established by the Economic and Social Council in 1982 to "give special attention to the evolution of standards concerning the rights of indigenous populations". The session was the most well attended ever, with 790 participants, including 164 indigenous nations, organizations and communities.

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The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has issued a Code of Ethics on the International Trade in Chemicals to help improve safety in the private sector. The Code is a voluntary guide to standards of conduct in chemical production and management, with a view to reducing health and environmental risks. It provides specific guidance in seven areas: risk reduction; testing and assessment; quality assurance; classification, packaging and labelling; information provision; education and training; and advertising and marketing.

The Code was developed in response to a 1991 decision of UNEP's Governing Council, and to Agenda 21, the programme of action adopted by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1705
10 August 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, condemns attempts to prevent return of refugees to Rwanda; urges former leadership and new Government to cooperate in reconciliation and repatriation efforts.

+ Secretary-General expresses concern over recent violence in Burundi; consults with Special Representative on possible steps to be taken.

+ Special Representative Akashi urges Bosnian parties to show military restraint, warning that recent fighting could escalate into war.

+ Artillery exchanges decrease dramatically in Bosnia and Herzegovina after UNPROFOR issues stern warning to opposing forces.

+ UNHCR asks donors to respond generously and flexibly to Rwanda/Burundi appeal; faces $71 million shortfall in initial budget.

+ Special Rapporteur on human rights in former Yugoslavia says serious violations are being committed throughout region; urges International Tribunal to deploy investigators and begin prosecutions.

+ WHO warns Yokohama Aids Conference of remarkable increase in HIV/tuberculosis infections in Asia.

* * *

The Security Council today strongly condemned attempts to intimidate Rwandan refugees and to prevent them from returning home. In a statement read out by its President, Yuliy Vorontsov (Russian Federation), the Council urged the former leadership and those who had assumed political responsibility in refugee camps to cooperate with the new Rwandan Government in reconciliation and repatriation efforts and to halt propaganda campaigns inducing refugees to stay in exile. It welcomed the Government's declared readiness to encourage the return of refugees, to ensure their protection and legal rights, and to allow aid to reach those who required it anywhere in the country. The Council also called on the Government to ensure that there were no reprisals against those who wished to return home.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Council urged the Rwandan Government to cooperate with the United Nations in ensuring that those guilty of atrocities, particularly genocide, were brought to justice through an appropriate mechanism which would ensure fair and impartial trials in accordance with international standards of justice. It welcomed the Government's recent expression of support for the establishment of an international tribunal, and the Secretary-General's establishment of the Commission of Experts to investigate humanitarian violations and acts of genocide in Rwanda.

The Council said that full deployment of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) was important to establish a more secure environment for the return of refugees and to prevent further population movmements. It was essential that UNAMIR contingents be deployed without delay, and that the technical assistance they needed be provided as soon as possible.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed concern at recent violence in Bujumbura, which has reportedly claimed at least 15 lives, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Secretary-General discussed the situation with senior aides this morning and was in contact with his Special Representative in Burundi, Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, regarding steps that might be taken.

* * *

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi today warned that recent fighting in Bosnia and Herzegovina could escalate into war, and appealed to the parties there to show the utmost military restraint. He also appealed to them to continue negotiations in a constructive manner and to comply with existing agreements, pledging that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) was ready to facilitate the peace process.

Mr. Akashi reiterated his hope that the Agreement signed by the parties in Geneva on 8 June would be a first step towards a complete cease-fire in Bosnia and Herzegovina. While observance of the Agreement had been far from satisfactory, there had been no general offensive by either party in the past two months. Meanwhile, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had achieved some momentum towards the release of prisoners of war. He noted that the parties had been willing to show some flexibility on many issues, and underlined UNPROFOR's role as a bridge between those who did not trust each other but who desired peace.

* * *

There was relative calm throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina today after United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) Commander Lieutenant-General Michael Rose issued a stern warning to the parties to the conflict there, according to a spokesman for the Organization. Lieutenant-General Rose took that action after a Bosnian Government military offensive north of Sarajevo

(more)

led to heavy fighting. Up to 1,000 shells had been landing daily on the periphery of the Sarajevo exclusion zone, but there was a dramatic decrease in artillery exchanges today.

Meanwhile, the Force Commander of UNPROFOR, Lieutenant-General Bertrand de Lapresle was in New York for regular consultations, the spokesman noted. He met today with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and was scheduled to address a troop contributors meeting tomorrow.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) today appealed to donors to respond generously to the Rwanda/Burundi emergency, asking that funds be broadly earmarked so that they might be applied as circumstances dictated. The agency said it was facing a shortfall of $71 million in its initial regional budget of $258 million. Moreover, the budget did not cover the cost of repatriating refugees to Rwanda -- estimated at up to $50 million -- or the cost of operations in Zaire from mid-October to the end of the year.

The UNHCR said it urgently needed drugs and other medical supplies, aviation fuel, heavy equipment for preparing sites and for burials, trucks and ambulances. It also detailed the requirements for seven way-stations to be established between Goma and Kigali to assist returning refugees.

* * *

The Special Rapporteur on human rights in the former Yugoslavia, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, has issued a preliminary report on his recent mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It contains his immediate conclusions and focuses on matters requiring urgent attention. A more comprehensive report will be issued in due course.

The Special Rapporteur received indications that serious human rights violations were being committed in the whole region. He called attention to the plight of civilian detainees, who were often held in poor conditions, and prisoners of war, who were being used as forced labour at confrontation lines. While conditions in Sarajevo had improved, the lack of freedom of movement and of economic opportunity led to despair. Mostar had been been devastated by fighting, and there were reports of "soft ethnic cleansing" in the displacement of Muslims there. Meanwhile, there had been intensive fighting within the Bihac pocket. He did not visit areas under Bosnian Serb control, but received reliable reports of ongoing ethnic cleansing there.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was in a very difficult economic situation because of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the economic embargo imposed by Greece, according to the report. The country should receive adequate compensation for losses resulting from sanctions and the embargo must be lifted.

The building of trust in the region was hampered by the sense that war criminals were still at large, the Special Rapporteur said. The International

(more)

Criminal Tribunal had done little to change that situation, and was perceived as remote and irrelevant. He urged that the Tribunal move quickly to gain local trust by deploying investigators and commencing prosecutions.

* * *

The World Health Organization (WHO) today warned that the number of people in Asia who developed tuberculosis because they were infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) would multiply almost seven-fold this decade. Preliminary figures on HIV/TB co-infection in the region were remarkably high, according to a statement issued by the WHO Tuberculosis Programme during the Tenth International Conference on AIDS in Yokohama, Japan. In several studies, between 52 and 70 per cent of AIDS cases in Thailand, India and Nepal had developed TB.

"Tuberculosis and HIV are feeding off each other at an alarming rate," said Dr. Arata Kochi, Programme Manager of the WHO Tuberculosis Programme. With nearly half of all people in Asia already infected by TB, and HIV infection increasing, it is impossible to predict how bad the dual epidemics might get, according to the agency.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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Prepared by Central News

DH/1706
11 August 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General voices increasing concern at violence and political instability in Burundi; Special Adviser says situation is laboratory for preventive action.

+ Thorvald Stoltenberg to undertake urgent mission to Belgrade and Pale to discuss Contact Group initiative with Serb leadership; Secretary-General says time has come for acceptance of proposals.

+ Special Representative Khan proposes Rwanda Emergency Normalization Plan, including grant or soft loan to enable Government to function; UNAMIR prepares for smooth transition when French-led force leaves protected zone.

+ High Commissioner for Human Rights to begin visit to Rwanda and Burundi on 17 August; will ensure that mandates of Special Rapporteur and Commission of Experts are properly implemented.

+ Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination demands immediate end to suffering of Rwandan people; citing inadequate international response, says genocide could have been prevented.

+ Sarajevo airport closed after two relief flights hit by small arms fire; calm prevails elsewhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina despite expiration of 8 June Agreement.

+ Argentina says terrorist acts should not go unpunished because of laws on diplomatic immunity; advocates United Nations mechanism for prompt international action when States are affected by terrorism.

+ Somalia cholera epidemic continues to abate despite sporadic cases in north-west and north-east; UNDP expert to review rehabilitation programmes in country.

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Special Adviser Alvaro de Soto today said that Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was growing increasingly concerned at developments in Burundi. He told correspondents at Headquarters that the political situation there was critical, while the refugee situation gave cause for alarm. Negotiations on presidential succession remained deadlocked, and security had deteriorated since July. More than 200 people had been killed in recent violence.

Special Representative Ahmedou Ould Abdallah was in constant contact with the interim President and other political leaders in Burundi and was monitoring developments closely, Mr. de Soto continued. Meanwhile, Senior Adviser Chinmaya Gharekhan was briefing the Security Council on steps being considered to ensure that a volatile situation did not explode. He described the situation in Burundi as "a laboratory for some sort of preventive action," coming so soon after the tragedy in neighbouring Rwanda.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has asked Thorvald Stoltenberg, the Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, to undertake an urgent mission to Belgrade and Pale, Special Adviser Alvaro de Soto announced today. Mr. Stoltenberg will meet with the Serb leadership to discuss the recent proposals by the Contact Group on the former Yugoslavia -- France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States -- and the reception they had received.

Mr. de Soto said the Secretary-General believed that the time had come to try to ensure that the Contact Group's proposals were accepted. Accordingly, Mr. Stoltenberg would be arriving in the area no later than 14 August.

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The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Rwanda, Shahryar Khan, has proposed a "Rwanda Emergency Normalization Plan", including a grant or soft loan to enable the Government to function. The plan provides for the immediate restoration of power and water supplies and telecommunications, the harvesting of crops and the reopening of hospitals. Operations to be concluded by October include the training of a police force, the opening of a central bank, the training of administrators and the repair of infrastructure.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) has been making preparations for a smooth transition in the humanitarian zone in the southwest of the country when the French-led international force departs later this month. UNAMIR and the United Nations Rwanda Emergency Office have been setting up joint offices at Gikongoro and Cyangugu, and the Mission has been arranging for meetings between local leaders and Government officials. United Nations military observers have also been conducting joint patrols with the French and African units in the zone.

Those efforts were intended as confidence-building measures to avert a massive outflow of refugees when the French-led force left, the spokesman continued. He noted that there had been a significant amount of propaganda in

the area claiming that people would no longer be safe when Operation Turquoise had concluded.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso, will begin a visit to Rwanda and Burundi on 17 August, according to a spokesman for the Organization. Mr. Ayala Lasso will meet with authorities to discuss the modalities and conditions of work for the human rights field operation, to ensure that the mandates of the Special Rapporteur and the Commission of Experts are being properly implemented.

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The Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities has demanded an immediate end to the suffering of the Rwandan people. In a resolution adopted in Geneva on Tuesday, the Subcommission referred to the "tardy and insufficiently effective intervention" by the international community. It stated that a more successful response might have made it possible to prevent the genocide.

The Subcommission also called for the quick and safe return of refugees. It stressed that an international effort was needed to bring war criminals to trial and disarm the militias and extremists of the former Rwandan forces. It recommended that Rwanda be given assistance for its reconstruction and to establish a State governed by the rule of law.

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Sarajevo airport was closed today after two relief aircraft were hit by small arms fire, according to a United Nations spokesman. The airport had received 13 of the 15 flights scheduled for the day. A United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) helicopter was hit by machine-gun fire yesterday, but did not sustain casualties or serious damage.

There was relative calm elsewhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina today, apart from fighting between Bosnian Government forces and a breakaway Muslim faction in the Bihac pocket. The spokesman noted that the Agreement between the Government and the Bosnian Serbs to refrain from offensive activities, which had been signed in Geneva on 8 June and later extended for one month, had expired yesterday.

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Argentina has said that it is necessary to rethink the norms governing the immunity of diplomats and the inviolability of their headquarters because of a sharp rise in international terrorism. In a letter addressed to the Secretary-General dated 9 August, Argentina said illicit acts carried out under the protection of diplomatic immunity should not go unpunished, as that would be contrary to the spirit and letter of the Vienna Convention of Diplomatic Relations. Diplomatic law should be updated to prevent situations

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in which grave international crimes, such as terrorism and drug-trafficking, took place under its protection. The letter was written in response to the terrorist bombing in Buenos Aires on 18 July.

Argentina said it was necessary to consider ways in which the United Nations could contribute to the protection of affected States. It suggested the creation of a mechanism for immediate international action when a country was affected by serious crimes, which would automatically generate an "international case," thus preventing them from going unpunished because of strict application of the Vienna Convention. Such a mechanism would have a base in Article 41 of the Convention, which dealt with the incompatible uses of diplomatic immunity and inviolability of headquarters.

Sheltering terrorists or persons strongly suspected of crimes was incompatible with the inviolability of diplomatic premises, Argentina stressed. Legal opinions concerning such persons should be examined urgently, with a view to incorporating them in the Vienna Convention. United Nations action to combat terrorism should be as intense as the action taken to combat other serious international crimes. The Security Council should make recommendations to Member States on ways to deal with the problem, as success could only be ensured by the concerted efforts of all States.

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The cholera epidemic in Somalia continues to show signs of abating, and has run its course in many places, a spokesman for the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) announced today. However, some cases of the disease were still being reported in the north-west and north-east of the country, and the World Health Organization (WHO) was strengthening its water and sanitary campaign there.

Meanwhile, a disaster expert from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will arrive in Mogadishu later this month to begin a study of the problems of displaced persons and returnees. He will also review UNDP's rehabilitation programmes in Somalia.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1707
12 August 1994

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, says Angola peace agreement is within reach; urges UNITA to accept proposals on national reconciliation and defers imposition of threatened measures.

+ In statement last night, Security Council calls on States to promote peace in Afghanistan and to halt flow of weapons to warring parties; says civil war threatens stability and security in region.

+ Security Council expresses concern at restrictions on UNPROFOR movements in Croatia; says blockades of UNPAs by demonstrators and taxes and tolls imposed by authorities are inadmissible.

+ Security Council mission to Mozambique completes week of talks on implementation of General Peace Agreement; three members to travel on to Burundi to assess situation there.

+ Secretary-General appoints Major-General Guy Tousignant of Canada to succeed Major-General Romeo Dallaire as Force Commander of UNAMIR on 15 August.

+ United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks to hold fourth session at Headquarters from 15 to 26 August.

* * *

The Security Council today strongly urged the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to accept a set of proposals on national reconciliation put forward by the Secretary-General's Special Representative and the three observer States to the Angolan peace process. Saying a just and comprehensive peace agreement was within reach, the Council temporarily deferred the imposition of additional measures against UNITA referred to in resolution 932 (1994).

However, in a statement read out by President Yuliy Vorontsov (Russian Federation), the Council warned that it was ready to impose further measures

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against UNITA if it did not accept the proposals this month. The Council also said that it would start to compile a list of possible measures, and that it would not tolerate further procrastination in the peace process.

The Council commended the work of the Secretary-General, his Special Representative and the three observer States, and encouraged them to continue efforts to bring peace to Angola through negotiations within the Peace Accords. It urged the Angolan Government and UNITA to cooperate fully with the Special Representative to allow a successful conclusion of the Lusaka peace talks.

* * *

The Security Council last night called on all States to promote peace in Afghanistan, to stop the flow of weapons to the warring parties, and to put an end to the destructive civil war there. In a statement by its President, Yuliy Vorontsov (Russian Federation), the Council urged the international community to help Afghans to rebuild their shattered country.

The Council deplored the continuing fighting in Afghanistan, which threatened the stability and security of other countries in the region. It called on all parties to end the hostilities and to embark on the process of political reconciliation, reconstruction and development of their country.

The Council welcomed the progress report of the Secretary-General's special mission to Afghanistan. It particularly welcomed recommendations concerning the reestablishment of a United Nations political presence in Kabul and the establishment of a working group to assist peace efforts and to prepare an international conference on Afghanistan.

* * *

The Security Council last night expressed concern at difficulties faced by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) because of blockades by demonstrators of United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) in Croatia. In another statement by President Yuliy Vorontsov (Russian Federation), the Council said the blockades and related impediments imposed by Croatian authorities -- such as tolls and taxes for the use of roads and airports -- were inadmissible.

The Council was encouraged by the 4 August agreement between Croatia and UNPROFOR regarding the regulation of traffic to and from the UNPAs, and called on the authorities to faithfully implement it. The Council also reminded Croatia of its obligation to facilitate UNPROFOR's unimpeded access to all 19 crossing points agreed to in the 29 March cease-fire agreement. It urged the Croatian Government to quickly conclude a status of forces agreement with UNPROFOR and to resolve all issues, including the blockades and impediments, in accordance with that agreement. The Council reaffirmed its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Croatia and to the right of all displaced persons and refugees to return to their homes.

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The nine-member Security Council mission to Mozambique will leave the country for Nairobi, Kenya, tomorrow, having completed its work, a United Nations spokesman announced today. Part of the mission will return to New York, but three members will travel to Burundi amid growing concern at recent violence and political instability there. The three will meet with the Secretary-General's Special Representative and assess the situation in the country.

While in Mozambique, the mission had meetings with President Joaquim Chissano and Mozambique National Resistence Movement (RENAMO) President Afonso Dhlakama to discuss how to ensure full and timely implementation of the General Peace Agreement.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Major-General Guy Tousignant of Canada to succeed Major-General Romeo Dallaire as Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), according to a spokesman for the Organization. Major-General Tousignant will assume command of the Mission on 15 August.

The spokesman paid tribute to the outgoing Force Commander, who had served with honour and exceptional distinction during the most critical period in UNAMIR's history. Major-General Dallaire will be leaving Rwanda to take up national duties in Canada.

* * *

The United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks will hold its fourth session at Headquarters from 15 to 26 August. The Conference is expected to produce an instrument for sustainable exploitation of those resources, based on a revised negotiating text drafted at its third session in March. That text sets out general principles for conserving and managing fish stocks, but does not reflect a consensus.

The Conference is mandated by the General Assembly to identify, assess and solve long-standing problems of high seas fisheries, with particular reference to the conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory stocks. Fishing populations include straddling stocks, which are found within and beyond exclusive economic zones, and highly migratory fish.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1708
15 August 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ UNAMIR asks African contingents with Operation Turquoise to remain in Rwanda protected zone when French forces depart on 22 August.

+ Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serbs sign anti-sniping agreement in Sarajevo; fighting wanes in Bihac pocket after release of political prisoners.

+ Secretary-General welcomes agreement reached by Democratic People's Republic of Korea and United States at Geneva talks; cites progress relating to Non-Proliferation Treaty and Safeguards Agreement.

+ Secretary-General expresses sadness at death of Manfred Woerner, noting his work to strengthen cooperation between United Nations and NATO.

+ One Bangladeshi UNIKOM observer killed, two wounded, by gunmen while patrolling on Iraqi side of demilitarized zone.

+ UNHCR condemns murder of field officer in northern Burundi.

+ Ad Hoc Committee on International Convention on Safety of United Nations personnel approves revised negotiating text.

+ Preparatory Commission for International Seabed Authority recommends that General Assembly approve $2.5 million to finance operations through 1995.

+ Gun-Britt Andersson appointed as Assistant Administrator of UNDP and Director of Bureau for Policy and Programme Support; Noeleen Heyzer named as Director of UNIFEM.

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The United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) has asked African contingents serving with the French-led international force to remain in the protected zone in southwestern Rwanda when French forces depart on 22 August. The contingents will be incorporated into UNAMIR to ensure a smooth

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transition of control and to deter an exodus of refugees from the zone. So far, Chad and Guinea-Bissau have agreed to the request. Replies from four other countries -- Congo, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal -- are expected shortly.

Meanwhile, UNAMIR has deployed a Ghanain battalion in the zone and the first elements of an Ethiopian battalion have arrived to take up position. Population movements have so far been well below projected levels, but human agencies remain on alert, trying to maintain calm and deter an exodus westward, according to a United Nations spokesman.

* * *

The Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serb leaders signed an anti-sniping agreement in Sarajevo over the weekend after negotiations held under the auspices of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). The agreement took effect at midnight on Sunday and no sniping incidents were reported today, according to a United Nations spokesman. Meanwhile, conflict levels were down in the Bihac pocket after the breakaway Bosnian Muslim faction loyal to Fikret Abdic released 140 political prisoners.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the announcement in Geneva on Saturday that the third round of talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States had resulted in agreement on a number of outstanding issues. He said the international community applauded efforts to reduce tension on the Korean Peninsula and to settle differences threatening regional security.

The Secretary-General cited the progress on steps by which the People's Republic would continue to fulfil its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and to allow implementation of its Safeguards Agreement under the Treaty. He was also pleased with other points of agreement, including those aimed at normalizing political and economic relations between the United States and the People's Republic. He said he looked forward to further progress when the talks were resumed on 23 September.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed profound sadness at the death of Manfred Woerner. In a statement issued on Saturday, he paid tribute to Mr. Woerner's statemenship as Defence Minister of Germany and as Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

The Secretary-General also lauded Mr. Woerner's work to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and NATO in pursuit of peace in the former Yugoslavia.

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Three Bangladeshi soldiers serving with the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) were ambushed by unknown gunmen on Friday while patrolling the demilitarized zone on the Iraqi side of the border, according to a spokesman for the Organization. One observer was killed and the other two were wounded, while their vehicle was taken and stripped.

Responding to a written protest by UNIKOM, the Iraqi authorities later expressed regret at the incident and promised to do everything in their power to apprehend the attackers.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, has condemned the murder of a UNHCR field officer in the morthern town of Kirundo, Burundi on Saturday. The French national was killed by gunmen while hosting a dinner for the local administrator, who was apparently the target of the attack. One other person was killed and five people were wounded.

* * *

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of an International Convention Dealing with the Safety and Security of United Nations and Associated Personnel has approved a revised negotiating text which would broaden the categories of United Nations personnel and the types of operations protected by a future instrument. However, disagreement remained as to exactly who should be covered and under what circumstances. The Committee took that action on Friday as it concluded its second and final session.

According to the text, the convention would cover persons engaged or deployed by the Secretary-General for a United Nations operation, including military, police and civilian components, and other individuals from the United Nations system present in an official capacity. Associated personnel would include persons deployed by a humanitarian non-governmental organization or agency by agreement with the Secretary-General or a specialized agency, and persons assigned by a Government or an intergovernmental organization with the agreement of a United Nations organ

A United Nations operation would be defined as one established and conducted under the authority of a United Nations organ to maintain or restore international peace and security. It would also include emergency humanitarian operations. However, the Committee's report noted views that the convention should be applicable only to United Nations operations mandated by the Security Council and carried out under United Nations command and control, and that such operations should be conducted with the consent of the host State in accordance with a status-of-forces agreement.

The text will be referred to the Sixth Committee (Legal) with a request for the reestablishment of a working group to continue negotiations on the convention for two weeks in October or November.

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The Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea has recommended that the General Assembly approve $2.5 million from the United Nations regular budget to establish and operate the Authority from 16 November 1994 to 31 December 1995. It also decided to submit a report on practical arrangements for setting up the International Tribunal to an ad hoc meeting later this year of States parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Commission took that action at the end of its two-week session on Friday, ending 12 years of work.

In a closing statement, Commission Chairman Jose Luis Jesus (Cape Verde) said that although the Commission had "gone through rough waters, it had arrived at a safe port." The Commission will cease to exist following the first session of the Assembly of the Authority, which will meet when the Convention enters into force on 16 November.

* * *

The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, James Gustave Speth, today appointed Gun-Britt Andersson as Assistant Administrator of the UNDP and Director of its Bureau for Policy and Programme Support. The Bureau provides policy guidance and substantive support to UNDP programmes. Ms. Andersson, a Swedish national, has been the Director of Operations in the West Bank for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) since 1992.

Mr. Speth appointed Noeleen Heyzer, a national of Singapore, as Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). The Fund provides direct financial and technical support to low-income women in developing countries and funds activities bringing them into decision-making roles. Since 1984, Ms. Heyzer has been in charge of the Gender and Development Programme in the Asian and Pacific Development Centre in Malaysia.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1709
16 August 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in Canada, says he hopes to send mission to Haiti within weeks to convince military to cede power to legitimate Government and avoid intervention by multinational force.

+ Secretary-General sends fact-finding mission to Liberia to review status of peace process; voices concern at deteriorating situation and prospects for UNOMIL and ECOMOG.

+ High Commissioner for Human Rights says 26 human rights monitors and observers will be in Rwanda when French troops leave; Commisssion of Experts on humanitarian violations begins work in Geneva.

+ Special Representative Akashi holds extensive and constructive talks with Bosnian Government in Sarajevo; to visit Pale soon for talks with Bosnian Serbs.

+ United Nations launches inter-agency appeal for $22 million to meet humanitarian needs in Yemen.

+ WFP warns of famine in Malawi because of insufficient food donations after drought and crop failure.

+ Secretary-General designates Special Representative Joe Clark as UNFICYP Chief of Mission; appoints Colonel Ahti Toimi Paavali Vartiainen of Finland as Force Commander.

+ United Nations to host seminar on Ethnic Diversity and Public Policies from 17 to 19 August.

* * *

On a visit to Canada today, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said he hoped to send a mission to Haiti within weeks to convince the military authorities to implement Security Council resolution 940 (1994) and avoid a military invasion. That resolution called for the restoration of the legitimate Government in Haiti in accordance with the Governors Island

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For information media—not an official record

Agreement. It also authorized a multinational force under unified command and control to use "all necessary means" to facilitate the departure of the military authorities and the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

The Secretary-General was in Moncton, New Brunswick, at the invitation of Prime Minister Jean Chretien. During a meeting with the Prime Minister, he expressed thanks for Canada's financial and political support for the United Nations, citing its participation in peace-keeping operations in the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda and elsewhere. He was scheduled to address the Acadian World Reunion, and to receive an honorary degree from Moncton University, later in the day.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to send a fact-finding mission to Liberia to review the situation there and the status of the peace process, according to a United Nations spokesman. The mission, scheduled to leave Thursday, will consult with the Secretary-General's Special Representative and the Liberian National Transitional Government. It will be headed by Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi and will include members from the Departments of Political Affairs, Peace-keeping Operations, Humanitarian Affairs and Public Information.

The Secretary-General has expressed increasing concern at the deteriorating situation in Liberia and the uncertain prospects for the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) and the Economic Community of West African States' Military Observer Group (ECOMOG). To date, only 3,500 of an estimated 60,000 combatants have been disarmed. Meanwhile, the national elections originally planned for May and postponed until September will have to be rescheduled.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso, announced today in Geneva that 26 human rights monitors and observers would be in Rwanda by the time French troops left the country on 22 August. Mr. Ayala Lasso will visit Rwanda and Burundi from 18 to 21 August, where he will meet with Government leaders and representives of humanitarian agencies

Meanwhile, the Commisssion of Experts set up to investigate grave humanitarian violations in Rwanda began work yesterday in Geneva. The Commission is scheduled to send a mission to Rwanda on 22 August and is mandated to report to the Secretary-General by the end of November.

* * *

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi described his talks today with Bosnian Government officials as extensive, friendly and constructive. He told correspondents in Sarajevo that he was particularly pleased by the restraint shown by Bosnian Government forces at a very delicate and crucial period in international negotiations. He said that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) would continue its efforts to secure the reopening of the Sarajevo

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airport routes and the airport at Tuzla, and would show "resourceful strength" in other areas.

The Special Representative underlined UNPROFOR's commitment to achieving the release of detainees and prisoners, as well as dealing with ethnic cleansing and other violations of human rights. "One would expect progress step-by-step," he said.

The negotiations which had taken place in Geneva in conjunction with the proposals by the Contact Group on the former Yugoslavia had probably intensified Serb feelings against the international community, Mr. Akashi continued. That development had complicated UNPROFOR's own negotiating efforts. He said he would soon visit Pale to discuss the matter, and stressed that it was in the interest of all parties to show a spirit of compromise and to cooperate with the United Nations.

* * *

The United Nations today launched a consolidated inter-agency appeal for almost $22 million to meet urgent humanitarian needs in Yemen through next February. Some 375,000 people have suffered from displacement, destruction of infrastructure, and shortages of food and water since the conflict there earlier this year. Despite the cessation of hostilities on 7 July, landmines continue to threaten the lives of civilians and are hampering efforts to restore water and electricity supplies to Aden and Abyan.

The appeal is the result of a United Nations inter-agency mission to Yemen last month. The mission, which was led by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, comprised representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

* * *

The World Food Programme (WFP) today warned that up to 3 million people in Malawi face famine because donors have not pledged enough food to make up the country's food deficit after a drought and crop failure this year. Malawi needs more than 180,000 metric tons of cereal food aid, but pledges to date cover only 40 per cent of that figure.

Malawi's crop failure and food deficit have been overshadowed by the tragedy in Rwanda, according to the WFP. It warned that international neglect could jeopardize Malawi's transition to democracy and political pluralism after decades of single party rule.

"We cannot yet show on television people dying of hunger and we hope we never do," said Lufu Tomoka, Executive Secretary of the Council of Non-Governmental Organizations in Malawi. "But if food aid doesn't reach Malawi quickly, the weakest, especially children, will die. A tragedy can be averted if donors act quickly."

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has designated Special Representative Joe Clark as Chief of Mission in the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). During Mr. Clark's absence, Mr. Gustave Feissel, who is resident in Cyprus, will assume that function.

The Secretary-General named Colonel Ahti Toimi Paavali Vartiainen of Finland to succeed Major-General Michael Minehane of Ireland as Force Commander of UNFICYP. Colonel Vartiainen will be promoted to the rank of Major General upon taking up the appointment.

* * *

New approaches to stem ethnic conflict will be discussed at a seminar on "Ethnic Diversity and Public Policies" at Headquarters from 17 to 19 August. Organized by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, a Geneva-based autonomous think tank, and co-sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the seminar will be a prelude to the 1995 World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen.

The seminar is expected to attract more than 150 policy makers, academics and journalists from around the world. They will discuss the situations in specific countries, and such issues as third-party intervention and peace-keeping efforts, the dynamics of ethnic disputes, and the role of the media in ethnic conflicts.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1710
17 August 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Following mission to Burundi, Russian Ambassador says Security Council should follow developments closely to prevent another disaster in region; describes situation as tense and fraught with danger.

+ UNAMIR closely monitors population movements in Rwanda protected zone as deadline for departure of French troops looms; says figures so far indicate a problem, but not a crisis.

+ Mozambican Government formally disbands army one day after demobilization deadline; processing of troops to continue until 22 August.

+ General Assembly President calls for international action to curb ethnic conflicts; says ad hoc responses could undermine United Nations ability to maintain international peace and security.

+ Number of cease-fire violations in Sarajevo drops as tension eases across Bosnia and Herzegovina; Special Representative Akashi to meet with Bosnian Serbs in Pale tomorrow.

* * *

The situation in Burundi is very tense and fraught with danger, and the Security Council should follow it closely with a view to preventing another disaster in the region, the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation, Vasiliy Sidorov, said today. However, he told correspondents at Headquarters that there were no ready-made solutions to the problem.

Ambassador Sidorov was one of the members of the Security Council mission which proceeded to Burundi last weekend after a visit to Mozambique. He reported to the Council on the mission's findings today. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali last week expressed great concern regarding political instability in Burundi, after more than 200 people had been killed in violence there.

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For information media--not an official record

The United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) has been anxiously monitoring population movements in the protected zone in the south-west of the country as French troops prepare to depart on 22 August. A United Nations spokesman said today and tomorrow would provide crucial indications regarding likely developments as the deadline approached.

There were population movements in both directions at the Zairean border, with a net flow of 2,000 persons a day, and larger movements inside the zone, according to the spokesman. He said the figures so far suggested a problem, but not yet a crisis. UNAMIR was distributing leaflets to counter propaganda alleging that people would be in danger when Operation Turquoise concluded.

Meanwhile, UNAMIR continued its build-up in the zone, with troops from the Ethiopian battalion being deployed almost immediately on arrival. The Mission's strength now stands at some 2,300 troops, and is expected to reach 3,000 by 22 August.

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The Mozambican Government army was formally disbanded at a ceremony in Maputo on Tuesday, according to the United Nations Observer Mission in Mozambique (ONUMOZ). As of that day, the Government had demobilized 49,000 troops, out of an overall strength of 64,000. Meanwhile, the Mozambique National Resistence Movement (RENAMO) had demobilized 16,000 troops, out of an overall strength of 23,000.

Monday was the deadline for demobilization under the General Peace Agreement, with one week of tolerance to complete the process, ONUMOZ noted. All assembly areas have now been closed, but it is anticipated that all troops who have opted for demobilization can be processed by 22 August, ONUMOZ reported.

* * *

General Assembly President S. R. Insanally (Guyana) today called for international action to curb ethnic conflicts before they corrupted and consumed the global community. Mr. Insanally was addressing the opening of a seminar on Ethnic Diversity and Public Policies at Headquarters. While timely intervention could prevent violence from escalating, the United Nations was often so overwhelmed by the proliferation of ethnic strife that its response was ad hoc and inadequate. There was a clear and present danger that such an approach would jeopardize the Organization's credibility and compromize its ability to deal with threats to international peace and security.

Mr. Insanally said policies in multi-ethnic States must be designed to obviate the risk of conflict, and stressed the importance of education in preventing ethnic disputes. Communities should be taught the virtues of peaceful coexistence, he continued, stressing that the ethic of conflict must yield to the ethic of cooperation.

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The number of cease-fire violations in Sarajevo fell by a third today, but still stood at around 400 a day, according to a United Nations spokesman. There were no casualties from sniping incidents, despite sporadic gunfire downtown. Conflict levels were generally lower across Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Bihac pocket was relatively quiet. The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) has been hosting talks between Bosnian Government forces and the breakaway Bosnian Muslim faction loyal to Fikret Abdic.

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi was scheduled to travel to Pale tomorrow for talks with Bosnian Serb leaders, the spokesman noted. Mr. Akashi met yesterday with Bosnian Government officials in Sarajevo and discussed a range of issues.

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deployed by 22 August, and might reach full strength by mid-September. Meanwhile, Major-General Guy Tousignant would succeed Major-General Romeo Dallaire as Force Commander on 20 August.

The spokesman said population movements had accelerated in the zone, with 7,000 people crossing into Zaire today. However, the situation had not reached crisis proportions. UNAMIR had established a humanitarian aid station on the route to Cyangugu, and was urging people not to continue their journey across the border. Rwandan Government officials were also urging them to return home.

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The Security Council has expressed concern that despite several rounds of talks between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the principal difference of substance -- the name of the latter country -- remains unresolved. In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 17 August, the Council said it was also concerned at the possible consequences the situation might have for the maintenance of peace and stability in the region.

The Council welcomed the parties' commitment to resume talks under the auspices of the Secretary-General this autumn. It called on them to cooperate fully with him and Special Envoy Cyrus Vance in order to resolve outstanding issues as soon as possible.

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The United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) has said that increasing violence and the clear involvement of members of law-enforcement bodies in criminal acts are the main obstacles to the exercise of human rights in the country. It said rights violations were being committed with impunity, and charged that State institutions were neither preventing nor punishing them. Those findings were contained in a report by the Director of the ONUSAL Human Rights Division for the period 1 March to 30 June. It was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly and the Security Council in a note dated 28 July.

While the number of complaints had fallen from previous periods, there were indications that some groups were still resorting to violence to resolve political conflicts, according to the report. Politically-motivated rights violations harmed the peace process and hampered the Salvadorian Government's efforts to consolidate a State based on the rule of law. The Government had implemented some recommendations made by the Human Rights Division and the Commission on the Truth, including the granting of habeas corpus and the invalidation of extrajudicial confession. However, the Legislative Assembly had not yet taken up proposals that the Council of the Judiciary be granted the power to appoint and dismiss judges, and that the Police Act be repealed.

The report said the armed forces had made remarkable progress in developing a new doctrine, but stressed that military personnel who participated in criminal acts must be brought before the courts of ordinary

justice. It also urged that the reform of the judicial system and the demobilization of the National Police be accelerated, and that the prison system be modernized as soon as possible.

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The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has expressed deep concern at the massive human rights violations and acts of racial discrimination in Burundi. At a meeting in Geneva yesterday, the Committee adopted a decision stating that those acts could cause the situation to worsen, with genocidal consequences. It criticized local media reports which fostered racial hatred and violence.

The Committee recommended that the Secretary-General and the Security Council consider urgent measures in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to avoid a new tragedy in Burundi. It was ready to cooperate with the High Commissioner for Human Rights in working for legislative, administrative and judicial reform there.

The Committee also adopted a decision on racist acts of terrorism. It expressed grave concern at the targeting of racial, ethnic or national groups. and condemned the bomb attacks against Jewish organizations in Buenos Aires and London last month.

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Any imprudent linkage of human rights with Security Council sanctions should be discouraged, the Chinese expert told the Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities in Geneva yesterday. The use of force or humanitarian intervention under the command of one country did not contribute to the protection of human rights, China said. Instead, it led to new and more serious violations.

The discussion was held in the context of a report by the United Kingdom expert on the role of the United Nations in international humanitarian activities, bearing in mind the principle of non-interference. It said the Security Council must be concerned with questions of human rights and humanitarian law. However, the Cuban expert disagreed with that conclusion, as well as with the contention that any Government that failed to provide the most fundamental rights for major segments of its population could be said to have forfeited sovereignty.

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Unemployment is the number one problem in cities around the world, according to a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) survey of 135 mayors. The second most serious problem was inadequate housing. The survey listed 12 categories of problems, including crime, inadequate sanitation and water supply, and poverty. The two least pressing problems were

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discrimination and insufficient participation in civil society. Lack of funds to meet urban needs was not listed in the survey, although some mayors volunteered that as their primary problem.

The results of the survey are being discussed at the International Colloquium of Mayors, which is taking place at Headquarters today and tomorrow. The event is co-sponsored by the UNDP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). The survey will form part of the UNDP's contribution to the 1995 World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, and the 1996 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in Istanbul.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1712
19 August 1994

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Secretary-General tells Security Council that Burundi crisis merits preventive action, but Government does not want United Nations deployment and Organization does not want forceful intervention; asks countries with military presence in Zaire not to withdraw.

+ Secretary-General foresees United Nations presence in Rwanda for years; asks Commission of Experts to report soon with view to establishing international tribunal.

+ In report to Security Council, Secretary-General says Somalia's leaders should be given more time to pull country back from abyss; recommends extension of UNOSOM II mandate to 31 October and gradual reduction in troop levels.

+ United Nations Technical Team in Mexico (ETONU-MEX) helps non-governmental organizations prepare for presidential election on Sunday.

+ Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Mirgratory Fish Stocks completes review of dispute settlement provisions in revised negotiating text.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today told the Security Council that there was a serious crisis in Burundi which merited preventive action. Special Adviser Alvaro de Soto said the Secretary-General made no concrete proposals, but suggested that those countries with a military presence in neighbouring Zaire should not withdraw "just in case."

The Secretary-General had contacted the Government of Burundi with a view to establishing a United Nations presence in Bujumbura to help deter "an explosion of Rwandese proportions," Mr. de Soto said. However, the Government had been unwilling to request such a measure. At the same time, the

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For information media--not an official record

international community was unwilling to intervene in the country under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. The Organization was thus faced with a major dilemma.

Mr. de Soto went on to say that a range of options were being contemplated: deploying United Nations guards or human rights observers; reinforcing the existing humanitarian presence in Burundi; augmenting the Special Representative's staff; and convening a regional conference to discuss the situation. Those options were not mutually exclusive, he added.

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The United Nations will probably have to maintain its presence in Rwanda for years if the country is to recover from its ordeal, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He told the Security Council today that military personnel would be needed in addition to humanitarian workers in view of security conditions there.

The Secretary-General thanked France for its courageous action in launching Operation Turquoise, which had saved thousands of lives and galvanized the international community. However, the situation in the protection zone was still difficult, and there would be new problems to confront when refugees and displaced persons returned home. He expressed hope that the new Government in Kigali would not contribute to the "crisis of confidence" in Rwanda.

The Secretary-General said he had asked the Commission of Experts investigating major human rights violations in Rwanda to report to him quickly with a view to establishing an international tribunal. He noted that the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) had deployed 2,564 peace-keepers as of today, adding that the total would soon rise when the Ethiopian contingent was fully deployed. However, he pointed out that the Council had authorized a 5,500-strong Mission.

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The United Nations should give Somali leaders a little more time to cooperate in bringing their country back from the abyss, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report to the Security Council dated 17 August, he said continued international support for Somalia depended on their resolve to achieve political compromise. He recommended that the Council consider extending the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) for one month until 31 October, to allow time for action on a report he would submit by 15 October. While it was too early to conclude that the Operation could not achieve its aims, the omens were not promising.

The Secretary-General pointed out that progress towards national reconciliation, security and stability had not matched humanitarian gains in Somalia. Delays by the factions in implementing agreements called into question their commitment to peace. Moreover, the prospects for rehabilitation and reconstruction were limited because the lack of political

progress sapped donor interest. Conflicts within the dominant Hawiye clan -- to which Mr. Ali Mahdi and General Mohammed Farah Aidid belonged -- constituted the major obstacle to national reconciliation. UNOSOM II should help convene a Hawiye conference by the end of September.

Acting on recommendations by the recent Special Mission to Somalia, the Secretary-General said UNOSOM II's strength should be reduced to 17,200 troops before October, and thereafter to 15,000. The Operation would be unable to implement its current mandate below that level. He warned that any hasty and large-scale reduction could imperil security conditions in Somalia.

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The United Nations Technical Team in Mexico (ETONU-MEX) has been helping local non-governmental organizations to prepare for Sunday's presidential election. The Team is providing technical support for electoral observation and a quick count, drawing on United Nations experience with electoral assistance missions in almost 50 countries. It will not evaluate or comment on the elections themselves or on the outcome.

The extent of the assistance provided to non-governmental organizations varies according to their prior experience and the resources available from the United Nations Electoral Assistance Fund. They must also meet such requirements as impartiality, pluralism, professionalism and transparency. Observation activities should cover the entire electoral process and not be restricted to election day, and coverage should be sufficiently representative for findings to be relevant.

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The United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks today completed its review of dispute settlement provisions in its Chairman's revised negotiating text. It also dealt with provisions on non-participants in regional fisheries organizations, and began reviewing the section on developing States' special needs.

The Conference has been mandated by the General Assembly to find solutions to problems relating to high seas fisheries, with particular reference to conservation and management. The negotiating text being reviewed will provide the basis of a future instrument.

In today's debate, the Russian Federation warned that clear and quick dispute-settlement procedures were needed to prevent ugly incidents over fishing activities on the high seas. The Conference should not limit such procedures to those included in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The United States said members of regional organizations should be allowed to adopt their own settlement procedures or to follow the Convention.

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